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INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT: FOLLOW-UP ACTION TO BE TAKEN BY THE UNITED NATIONS: IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT FOR THE WORK PROGRAMME ON POPULATION

Implications of the recommendations of the International Conference on Population and Development for the work programme on population

Report of the Secretary-General

SUMMARY

The present report has been prepared in response to General Assembly resolution 49/128 and in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 1994/227. The report provides an overview of the results of the International Conference on Population and Development, which took place in Cairo from 5 to 13 September 1994, and its implications for the work programme on population of the Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis. The report consists of three sections. Section I contains a brief summary of the substantive results of the Conference that are of major significance for the activities in the population programme of the Department. Section II examines the programmatic implications of the results of the Conference for the medium-term plan of work of the Department in the field of population. The institutional implications of the Conference recommendations for the United Nations are considered in section III.

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INTRODUCTION

1. In accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 1994/227 of 14 July 1994, the Population Commission will consider at its twenty-eighth session follow-up action to be taken by the United Nations on the International Conference on Population and Development and will review the implications of the recommendations of the Conference for the work programme on population. Similar action was taken by the Population Commission on the reviews of the 1974 and the 1984 population conferences. 1/

2. In 1974, the General Assembly requested the Population Commission, at its eighteenth session, in 1975, to report to the Economic and Social Council on "the implications of the World Population Conference, including the implications for the Population Commission itself" (resolution 3344 (XXIX), para. 10). For that purpose, however, no particular document was prepared by the Secretariat. Instead, the Commission convened a working group, composed of seven member States (open also to other interested members), that selected the items for discussion. As a result of the deliberation, the Council decided to enlarge the mandate of the Commission to include the biennial monitoring of population trends and policies and the quinquennial review and appraisal of the Plan of Action, as part of the regular functions of the Commission.

3. Ten years later, the General Assembly invited the Commission, at its twenty-third session, in 1985, "to review, within its area of competence, the recommendations of the Conference and their implications for the activities of the United Nations system, and to transmit its views" to the Council (resolution 39/228, para. 11). A report of the Secretary-General reviewing the implications was prepared (E/CN.9/1985/2). The discussions at the Commission dealt with the substantive contributions of the Conference and its programmatic and institutional implications. The Council reaffirmed, among other things, the role of the Commission "as the principal intergovernmental body to arrange for studies and advise the Council" on population matters and requested the preparation of reports on the monitoring of multilateral population assistance and an overview of population activities within the United Nations system (resolution 1985/4, paras. 1 and 7). Subsequently, in its resolution 1986/7, the Council also requested reports on the activities of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations related to the implementation of the Plan of Action.

4. At its twenty-fifth session, the Population Commission discussed the possibility of holding an intergovernmental conference on population to be convened in 1994. A report of the Secretary-General indicating some alternatives was submitted to the Commission (E/CN.9/1989/4). The Council endorsed the Commission's conclusion that a conference would be the best option and the suggestion that the 1994 conference should assess the progress made and identify the obstacles encountered in achieving the goals and objectives of the World Population Plan of Action. The Council, in its resolution 1989/91, designated the Population Commission, meeting with the participation of all member States, as the Preparatory Committee for the Conference. 2/ Two years later, the Council, in endorsing the views of the Commission, further specified that the Conference should contribute to the review of the progress made towards

achieving the goals of the World Population Plan of Action, increase awareness about population and development issues and adopt new courses of action (resolution 1991/93).

5. The Council designated the then Department of International Economic and Social Affairs and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) as the two lead organizations in charge of the preparations for the Conference. UNFPA, in consultation with the Department, was responsible for coordinating the overall preparations, and the Department, in consultation with UNFPA, was responsible for coordinating the substantive aspects of the preparations, which included the convening of six expert group meetings, preparing the report on the review and appraisal of the World Population Plan of Action, and the formulation of the draft recommendations of the Conference. 3/ The preparatory work was characterized by extensive collaboration among the different units, bodies and organizations of the United Nations system, particularly between UNFPA and the Department. It should be noted that the five regional population conferences, which were convened to provide regional perspectives to the preparatory work for the Conference, were organized by the United Nations regional commissions and UNFPA. In addition, other preparatory activities initiated by some States and non-governmental organizations, such as round tables, lectures, town-hall meetings and colloquia, were convened with the participation of the secretariat of the Conference.

6. The International Conference on Population and Development, hosted by the Government of Egypt, took place in Cairo from 5 to 13 September 1994. It was the fifth population conference organized under the auspices of the United Nations. While the first two conferences (Rome in 1954 and Belgrade in 1965) were mainly technical meetings aimed at exchanging scientific information, the World Population Conference, which was held in Bucharest in 1974 and was the first global intergovernmental conference on population, adopted the World Population Plan of Action. The Plan of Action was reviewed and complemented by a set of recommendations for its further implementation as a result of three quinquennial reviews and appraisals, the second of which was facilitated by the deliberations at the International Conference on Population held at Mexico City in 1984. The Cairo Conference represented a major contribution to a better understanding of population and development issues, and the consensus built around what has to be done constitutes an important achievement and owes much to the substantive approach and the terminology negotiated and accepted by the international community at the two previous intergovernmental population conferences. On the basis of the experience gained in the past two decades, the Conference convened in Cairo adopted a Programme of Action as a new intergovernmental instrument aimed at guiding national and international action in the area of population and development during the next 20 years. 4/

7. The General Assembly, in its resolution 49/128 of 19 December 1994, took note of the report of the Cairo Conference and endorsed its Programme of Action. In the same resolution, it was decided that the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and a revitalized Population Commission shall constitute a three-tiered intergovernmental mechanism that will play the primary role in the follow-up to the implementation of the Programme of Action (para. 23); that the Commission shall be renamed the Commission on Population and Development (para. 24); that it will monitor, review and assess the implementation of the

Programme of Action (para. 23 (c)); that it shall meet on an annual basis (para. 25); and that the Economic and Social Council, at its substantive session of 1995, shall review the Commission's terms of reference, mandate and composition (paras. 26 and 27). Furthermore, in the same resolution, the General Assembly invited the Commission, at its twenty-eighth session, to review the Programme of Action and its implications and to transmit its views to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1995 (para. 34). In its resolution 49/127, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare, in consultation with all States and relevant international and regional organizations, a report on international migration and development, including the possibility of convening a United Nations conference on international migration and development.

8. The present report has three sections. Section I is devoted to the substantive contributions of the Conference that are of major significance from the point of view of the research and technical cooperation programme of the Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis. Section II concentrates on the implications of the Conference for the work programme on population of the Department. The institutional implications of the recommendations of the Conference are considered in section III.

I. SUBSTANTIVE RESULTS OF THE CONFERENCE

A. Principles

9. The Cairo Conference reaffirmed fundamental international human rights and principles relating to population and development. Particular attention was given to the basic principles contained in the World Population Plan of Action. The Programme of Action contains a set of 15 principles that provide a careful balance between the recognition of individual human rights and the right to development of nations. The set of principles is preceded by a mindful statement affirming that the implementation of the Programme of Action is the sovereign right of every country, consistent with national laws and development priorities, with full respect for the various religious and ethical values and cultural backgrounds of its people, and in conformity with universally recognized international human rights. This formulation was a reaffirmation of one of the key principles of the 1974 Plan of Action.

10. The principles maintain that human beings are at the centre of sustainable development and that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. The right to development is recognized as a means to facilitate the enjoyment of all human rights. In addition, the Programme of Action clearly states that the lack of development should not be invoked to justify the curtailment of internationally recognized human rights. Furthermore, the Programme of Action reiterates, with strong emphasis, that all human rights violations and discrimination, especially all forms of coercion, must be eliminated and that population policies and programmes should avoid the use of any form of coercion.

11. The Programme of Action also reaffirms the principle that all couples and individuals have the basic right to decide freely and responsibly the number and

spacing of their children and to have the information, education and means to do so. Other principles refer to critical issues in the area of population and development, such as gender equity and equality, the empowerment of women, the integration of population into sustainable development, poverty eradication, access to reproductive health care and family planning, the role of the family, the right to education, the situation of children, the rights of migrants and refugees, and the needs of indigenous people.

12. The new concept of "empowerment of women" as well as the advancing of gender equality and equity appears in the Programme of Action as one of its principles. The Cairo Conference was able to bring out the women's perspective in relation to all relevant population and development concerns. An indicator of this particular emphasis is reflected by the fact that out of the 243 recommendations for action contained in the Programme of Action, approximately one third explicitly mention women or girls.

B. Objectives and goals

13. The Programme of Action adopted a set of prominent population and development objectives and goals that are both qualitative and quantitative and are mutually supportive. Some of those objectives refer to the attainment of sustained economic growth in the context of sustainable development; reaching gender equity and equality; facilitating the demographic transition in countries where there is an imbalance between demographic rates and social, economic and environmental goals, thus contributing to the stabilization of the world population; and ensuring that all social and economic development policies are fully responsive to the diverse and changing needs and to the rights of families and their individual members. In addition to those broad objectives, the document has a large number of more specific objectives corresponding to the extensive and diverse nature of the issues included in the Programme of Action.

14. The goals that were adopted at the Cairo Conference are of critical importance for the attainment of the objectives of the Programme of Action. Those goals, which are mutually reinforcing, include the following:

(a) To achieve universal access to primary education as quickly as possible and, in any case, no later than 2015;

(b) To achieve universal access to reproductive health care and family planning as soon as possible and, in all cases, no later than 2015;

(c) To reduce infant and under-five mortality rates by one third, or to 50 and 70 per 1,000 live births, respectively, whichever is less, by the year 2000; by 2005, countries with intermediate mortality should strive to reach an infant mortality rate below 50 deaths per 1,000 live births and an under-five mortality rate below 60 deaths per 1,000 births. By 2015, all countries should aim at achieving an infant mortality rate below 35 per 1,000 live births and an under-five mortality rate below 45 per 1,000;

(d) To reach a life expectancy at birth greater than 70 years by 2005, and greater than 75 years by 2015; countries with higher levels of mortality should

aim at attaining a life expectancy at birth greater than 65 years by 2005 and greater than 70 years by 2015;

(e) To reduce maternal mortality by one half of the 1990 levels by the year 2000 and a further half by 2015. Countries with intermediate levels of mortality should aim to achieve a rate below 100 per 100,000 live births by 2005 and below 60 per 100,000 by 2015. Countries with the highest levels of mortality should strive to achieve rates below 125 per 100,000 by 2005 and below 75 per 100,000 by 2015.

C. Clusters of issues

15. The Economic and Social Council decided that the Conference should concentrate on six clusters of issues that were identified as requiring the greatest attention: (a) population growth and demographic structure; (b) population policies and programmes; (c) population, environment and development; (d) population distribution and migration; (e) population and women; and (f) family planning, health and family well-being. 5/

1. Population growth and demographic structure

16. In addition to addressing challenges resulting from population growth and demographic structures, the Programme of Action stresses other issues such as the ageing of the population and the regional diversity of such changes, with particular emphasis on the interaction between demographic variables and socio-economic development. For example, the Programme of Action recognizes that the momentum built into the age structure of most developing countries will result in continued growth well into the next century.

17. Another major interest of the Conference was the recognition that the majority of countries are converging towards a pattern characterized by low fertility and mortality. One of the objectives of the Programme of Action is to facilitate the demographic transition, which will contribute to the stabilization of the world population. Nevertheless, countries are completing their demographic transition at different speeds, thus displaying a large mosaic of varied demographic situations. For example, specific demographic characteristics that used to accompany distinctive configurations of social and economic development are less common than in the past; in some cases, fertility declines have not been accompanied by improvements in the standard of living of their populations.

18. The simultaneous alteration of levels of mortality and fertility have also modified the age structure of populations. The persistence of high fertility levels with declining mortality has produced a relatively large proportion of children and young people in the populations of developing countries. Declines in fertility, reinforced by further declines in the levels of mortality, have increased the proportion and number of elderly persons, which is the case in the majority of the developed regions. The Conference produced a series of specific measures to deal with those trends. Of particular interest is the increasing use of the concept of solidarity between and within generations, and the growing

recognition of the valuable contribution that the elderly can make to families and society.

19. In contrast with the World Population Plan of Action, the Programme of Action gives particular attention to two other groups that received little attention in the past. The Cairo Conference recognized that indigenous people have a distinct and important perspective on the way population, the environment and the process of development are interrelated and that not only their neighbours within their national boundaries but also the world may benefit from analysing such perspectives. The second group that received particular recognition for the first time is the group of persons with disabilities; the Programme of Action recognizes their contributions and needs and puts special emphasis on ensuring the realization of their human rights.

2. Population policies and programmes

20. While at the time of the Bucharest Conference few countries had adopted population policies, 20 years later, at the time of the Cairo Conference, a large proportion of developing countries (more than 75 per cent) had a national development plan or strategy currently in effect. In addition, two thirds of the Governments had reported to have at least one agency for formulating or coordinating population policies and a unit for taking into account population variables in development planning within the central planning or programming agency.

21. Because of the interrelationship between population and development, it is more widely recognized that not having an explicit population policy is also a policy, because policies of non-intervention also affect demographic variables. In this respect, the Programme of Action reaffirms the importance of identifying the demographic impact of cultural, social, political and economic variables.

22. The Conference also emphasized that population policies require a strong political commitment at the highest level and that local communities, the private sector and non-governmental organizations should participate in their formulation, implementation, monitoring and assessment. In this respect, it appears that the role of the public sector has evolved from one of being the only locus of policy-making to a new position of coordinator, "team-leader" or catalyser amid many actors and interests. Along this line, the concept of "development planning" is being replaced by other terms such as "formulation of development strategies" and "programming". Nevertheless, countries continue to have strong public sectors and an increasing number of them have offices or units where population considerations are taken into account when development strategies are discussed and adopted.

23. Related to this evolution, population policies are also evolving from strong macro-social perspectives, where the use of incentives and disincentives are widely recommended to achieve specific quantitative demographic targets to new policies that refer to smaller units (e.g., couples, the family or the community) and pay particular attention to individual rights and the quality of services. This new trend has given particular emphasis to the condition of

women, their rights and aspirations and to measures aimed at achieving gender equality and equity.

24. The Conference echoed the importance that national Governments and the international community are increasingly giving to non-governmental organizations, the private sector and local communities in various areas, including population. This view represents a major evolution from the 1974 (Bucharest) call to Governments to utilize the support of non-governmental organizations, to the 1984 (Mexico City) encouragement of their innovative activities and the drawing upon their experience, to the view of full partnership with the non-governmental sector as expressed in the Programme of Action. Non-governmental organizations participated in all the steps of the preparatory process (expert group meetings, regional conferences and informal consultations) and more than 1,200 non-governmental organizations were accredited to the Conference.

25. Another topic that received particular emphasis in the discussions around this cluster is the mobilization of resources for developing countries, at the international and national levels. The Conference noted that approximately two thirds of the costs of population programmes in the group of developing countries are being covered by the countries themselves.

3. Population, environment and development

26. The Programme of Action reaffirms the strong linkages between population, sustained economic growth and sustainable development, and recognizes that countries around the world manifest a wide variety of population and development issues. The Programme of Action emphasizes the need for harmonizing population trends and patterns of development, including reducing and eliminating unsustainable patterns of production and consumption. Sustainable development aims at increasing the standard of living of the current population, while at the same time not jeopardizing the needs of future generations.

27. The topic of integrating population and development strategies, which was mentioned in Bucharest in 1974 and was emphasized in Mexico City in 1984, received strong reaffirmation in Cairo. Nevertheless, the preparatory work indicated little progress made in this area. Two major reasons have been identified in this respect. First, it is important to recognize that although economic, environmental and demographic processes are inextricably interrelated, the extent of their reciprocal impact varies according to the ecological, socio-cultural and political setting where such processes take place. Secondly, the magnitude of such interrelationships has not been sufficiently documented to facilitate the acceptance of indisputable conclusions.

28. The concept of sustainable development, understood as development that implies long-term sustainability in production and consumption, gained wider recognition, particularly after the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. 6/ This approach to the process of development accommodates demographic concerns and requires their integration into development strategies. In this sense, population policies are viewed as important instruments of a general strategy for development. The Programme of Action contains a great

number of references to sustainable development and derived concepts such as unsustainable patterns of production and consumption; sustainable management of natural resources; sustainable development policies; sustainable regional development strategies; and sustainable rural employment opportunities.

29. Another topic that received major attention was the relationship between population, sustained economic growth and poverty. The Programme of Action affirms that slowing population growth has a considerable positive impact on the quality of life. Concurrently, sustained economic growth is essential to eradicate poverty. Eradication of poverty will contribute to achieving early population stabilization. In this sense, achieving economic progress, improving environmental protection, and reducing unsustainable consumption and production patterns are mutually reinforcing.

30. In relation to environmental issues, the Programme of Action reaffirms the principles of Agenda 21 adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. The Programme of Action stresses that rapid population growth, inadequate patterns of migration and spatial distribution of the population may cause or exacerbate environmental degradation and resource depletion and thus inhibit sustainable development.

4. Population distribution and migration

31. The Programme of Action provides a more comprehensive treatment of the issues related to both internal and international migration than its predecessors. A new topic is the need to pay attention to internally displaced persons, either because of environmental degradation or armed conflicts in the place of origin or owing to forced resettlements.

32. The process of urbanization, which at the time of the 1974 Conference was perceived as characterized by a number of adverse factors, was recognized in Cairo to be a major force of social change, amplifying the view already expressed in the 1984 Conference. While such a view represents a major shift, in relation to the measures needed to rationalize the process where it is taking place in a rapid and disruptive manner, the Programme of Action repeats the set of measures that were agreed upon on previous occasions, namely, to encourage the growth of small and medium-sized cities, to foster the development of rural areas and to decrease the disequilibrium between rural and urban places.

33. In relation to the large urban agglomerations, which in some cases dominate the urban network and could be properly labelled "mega-cities", it was recognized that in many developing countries they represent the most dynamic centres of cultural and economic activity. This recognition represents a major shift from the views prevailing 10-20 years ago that focused on the need to control growth. The new emphasis is rather being put on increasing the needed managerial capacity and competence to deal with adverse factors. Specific measures include strengthening the capacity of local governments for land management and promoting effective environmental management (including water, waste and air management, and sound energy and transport systems).

34. International migration is increasingly perceived as a consequence of the stronger interdependence of nations, and the Programme of Action affirms that migration can have positive impacts on both communities of origin and destination when it is orderly; in those circumstances, migration can facilitate the transfer of skills and contribute to cultural enrichment. Although more modulated than in the past, the thrust of the new recommendations is mostly directed at "making the option to remain in one's country a viable one for all people". The various means listed, such as alleviation of poverty, democratization, good governance and the prevention of environmental degradation, are actions that should be taken irrespective of their effects on migration. It is recognized that the economic situation of countries of emigration will improve in the future only gradually and that migration flows will continue in the short to medium term. Taking this view into account, the Programme of Action calls for countries to allow certain forms of temporary migration. A strong stand is made on the rights of documented migrants and their integration, in particular through naturalization. It is also recommended that family reunification be integrated into national legislation.

35. With respect to undocumented migration, the Programme of Action underscores the need for cooperation between countries of origin and destination, particularly in identifying the causes of such flows, and new considerations include the need to adopt sanctions against those who organize undocumented migration. The right to seek asylum is validated and the principle of non-refoulement is emphasized. Although the need to find durable solutions to the plight of refugees is recognized and reaffirmed, Governments are also called upon to provide at least temporary protection to refugees and displaced persons.

5. Population and women

36. In 1974, the Bucharest Conference included recommendations on the improvement of the condition of women as part of the strategies to influence the levels of fertility; 10 years later, the Mexico City Conference adopted a number of recommendations that were included in a separate chapter, emphasizing that the improvement of women's status was an end in itself, independent of demographic considerations. The Programme of Action goes further, devoting a chapter to the topic of gender equality, equity and empowerment of women, and stressing gender issues throughout the document. Furthermore, one of its prominent principles refers to advancing gender equality and equity.

37. Recommended actions include, among others, ensuring the full participation of women in development efforts, establishing mechanisms for women's equal participation and equitable representation at all levels of the political process and public life; promoting women's education, skill development and employment; and taking positive steps to eliminate all practices that discriminate against women, adolescents and girls. In addition, development interventions should take better into account the multiple demands on women's time, with greater investments made in measures to lessen the burden of domestic responsibilities, and with attention to laws, programmes and policies that will enable employees of both sexes to harmonize their family and work responsibilities. Recommendations in the area of reproductive health, including family planning, stress measures to improve the ability of services to respond

to women's needs and to involve women fully in all aspects of programme management and policy-making.

38. The Programme of Action also recognizes men's key role in bringing about gender equality and equity. Recommendations deal with actions to promote equal participation of women and men in all areas of family and household responsibilities, including, among others, responsible parenthood, sexual and reproductive behaviour, prevention of sexually transmitted diseases, and shared control of and contribution to family income and children's welfare. The Programme of Action also proposes a range of actions aimed at eliminating discrimination against the girl child and eliminating the root causes of son preference. Countries are urged to take full measures to eliminate all forms of exploitation, abuse and violence against women and girls, including rape in the context of war and "ethnic cleansing", to prohibit female genital mutilation, and to prevent infanticide and prenatal sex selection, among other things.

6. Family planning, health and family well-being

39. These topics are covered in three major chapters of the Programme of Action: reproductive rights and reproductive health; health, morbidity and mortality; and the family, its roles, rights, composition and structure (without mentioning the reference made to those topics in other chapters). The centrality of those issues in the Programme of Action is coupled with precise financial requirements and specific goals to be achieved at exact dates. Such centrality gives the impression that the blueprint for action that will emerge in the coming years is centred on reproductive health and, in particular, family planning.

40. One of the major contributions of the Programme of Action has been the introduction of the concepts of reproductive rights and reproductive health, thus broadening the scope of family planning. Reproductive health is defined as a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being in all matters relating to the reproductive system and to its functions and processes. It includes, among other things, family planning, sexual health, freedom of choice and the recognition of the right to be informed and to have access to safe, effective, affordable and acceptable family planning and health-care services. Reproductive rights refers to certain internationally recognized rights such as the freedom of couples and individuals to decide on the number and spacing of their children.

41. Family-planning programmes are presented as a means of facilitating the exercise of reproductive rights. As noted above, the Cairo Conference set the goal of universal access to reproductive health care and family planning as soon as possible, and in all cases, by the year 2015. Other actions include steps to help women avoid abortion, which in no case should be promoted as a method of family planning. Particular emphasis was put on the quality of such services. The Programme of Action also stresses the needs of adolescents with regard to sexual and reproductive health, including unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases.

42. The Conference also emphasized the issues of morbidity, mortality, primary health care and the health-care sector. The Programme of Action contains observations and actions addressing child survival, women's health and safe motherhood, and specific actions on means to prevent, reduce the spread of and minimize the impact of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. As was mentioned above, the Programme of Action has adopted a set of quantitative goals to be achieved in reducing infant, child and maternal mortality during the period up to 2015.

43. The family was another major subject stressed in the Programme of Action and the Conference reaffirmed that the family is the basic unit of society, although it also recognized the variety of processes of rapid demographic and socio-economic changes that have affected the formation of families, their lifestyles and their structure and composition. The set of actions recommended in Cairo and at other preparatory meetings aimed at achieving the contents of the motto of the International Year of the Family: "building the smallest democracy at the heart of society".

II. IMPLICATIONS FOR THE WORK PROGRAMME ON POPULATION

44. The current medium-term plan of the work of the Population Division covers the period 1992-1997. It was reviewed by the Population Commission at its twenty-fifth session, in February 1989, 7/ and was modified in 1992 to reflect the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the Secretariat. The programme elements of the current medium-term plan were prepared taking into account the priorities set by the World Population Conference in 1974 and the recommendations of the International Conference on Population in 1984. Nevertheless, it is important to recognize that the medium-term plan was prepared also taking into account that in 1994 a population conference would take place and that it was difficult at that moment to anticipate the magnitude and scope of the recommendations of the Conference that would affect the current programme of work. The Population Commission, after reviewing the results of the Conference, may wish to recommend changes in the medium-term plan. The following subsections are presented along the lines of the five subprogrammes of the population programme of the United Nations.

A. Analysis of demographic variables at the world level

45. The objective of this subprogramme is to produce scientific assessments of levels and trends of demographic variables, such as fertility, morbidity and mortality, urbanization, and internal and international migration, all of which affect the population size, the rate of growth, and the age and sex structure of the population. The Programme of Action calls for strengthening information networks dealing with demographic and socio-economic data, and for providing information desegregated by gender, geographical area, ethnicity and social and economic characteristics. The subprogramme also gives special consideration to gender issues and to some aspects of the family as they are related to the analysis of demographic variables.

1. Fertility

46. The Conference gave a prominent role to those aspects related to reproductive health, including family planning, and the largest number of recommendations for data collection, research and analysis are in those areas. The current subprogramme in this area already covers many of the items recommended in the Programme of Action, such as identifying new and emerging patterns of fertility and family-planning practice, the study of their determinants and linkages to the status of women and the changing conditions of families. Of particular importance was the Conference recommendation on the development of indicators for monitoring and evaluation of reproductive health programmes and services, including assessment of quality of services. Male responsibility in family planning and the needs of adolescents are also equally emphasized in the recommendations.

2. Mortality

47. In the area of mortality, the medium-term plan includes the study of trends and changing causes of mortality differences. Particular emphasis has been given to the analysis of the relationships between mortality differences with the status of women; an example is the study being undertaken on "excess female child mortality". In this respect, the current programme of work is consistent with the recommendations of the Programme of Action and will be strengthened by incorporating the monitoring of mortality levels and trends in adult ages.

3. Urbanization and internal migration

48. In relation to urbanization and population distribution the medium-term plan refers to some specific areas of research. Recent activities include the study of the concentration of urban population in a number of very large metropolitan areas or mega-cities. Work in this programme element may be expanded to accommodate the increased interest in the relationship between sustainable development and rapid urbanization.

49. The study of the determinants of population distribution and urbanization requires the analysis of internal migration trends and policies. This area of work may be further strengthened in the current medium-term plan, particularly in regard to its contribution to urban growth in developing countries. The analysis of national experiences in reorienting migration flows is another topic for possible future expansion.

4. International migration

50. In the area of international migration, current activities concentrate on the monitoring of levels and trends (documented, undocumented and refugee movements). This topic was an issue of major importance at the Cairo Conference. The Programme of Action calls for efforts in the areas of data collection and analysis, comparability of data, dissemination of information and development of estimation methods. The current programme may include those

concerns as well as other requests to contribute to the identification of the "root causes" of migration and the processes that sustain those movements over time. Activities may be expanded to include the contribution of the subprogramme to the request made by the General Assembly to the Secretary-General to prepare a report on international migration and development, including aspects related to objectives and modalities for the convening of a United Nations conference on international migration and development (Assembly resolution 49/127, para. 2).

B. World population projections

51. World population estimates and projections and demographic change is another area recommended by the Cairo Conference. Under this subprogramme, the United Nations prepares the official United Nations population estimates and projections for countries, their urban and rural areas, and their major cities for all countries and areas of the world. These population estimates, and corresponding demographic indicators, provide the standard and consistent set of population figures that are used throughout the United Nations system as the basis for activities requiring population information as an input. In particular, these population and demographic figures are used by the specialized agencies and other units of the system to prepare sectoral-specific estimates and projections such as labour force, school enrolment and literacy, agriculture and household size. Work under this subprogramme also includes the demographic impact of HIV/AIDS. In this respect, the current programme of work is also consistent with the recommendations of the Cairo Conference.

52. A careful review of the Programme of Action shows the central role of estimates and projections of population and underlying demographic variables. From the Preamble to the sections on bases for actions and objectives, the document is solidly based on quantitative information. The basic background and the numerical goals set out are based on the population and demographic estimates prepared by the United Nations under this subprogramme. The emphasis given by the Conference to the monitoring of demographic change and the level of achievement of goals calls for strengthening efforts for careful and specific estimation of country-specific demographic trends and expansion of demographic estimation and projections into new areas such as child mortality.

C. Population policy and socio-economic development

1. Population and development

53. One of the objectives of the subprogramme is to analyse the consequences of population levels and trends that affect socio-economic development and environmental conditions; particular attention is to be paid to ageing and the changing age structure of the population. The Conference and its preparatory process reiterated the importance of integrating population and environmental and development concerns, and the Programme of Action suggests that research on population and development should include in particular two critical components: the population/poverty nexus and the interrelationship between population and the environment. While research on the interrelationship between population and

the environment is encouraged in a broad manner, emphasis is nevertheless put on selected geographically defined areas such as ecologically fragile ecosystems and urban agglomerations. It is also emphasized that environmental degradation is one aspect of the multidimensional problem of poverty in developing countries. Finally, the document calls for research on the global issue of production and consumption patterns vis-à-vis population growth.

2. Population policy

54. The second objective of this programme is to analyse the effectiveness of population policies. The current programme of work is concentrated on the monitoring of policies affecting population growth, fertility, mortality and internal and international migration. Important work is also being done on the implications of the process of urbanization and the growth of large metropolitan areas. The results of the United Nations Population Inquiry among Governments (the seventh of which is in the process of being analysed), along with other information contained in the Population Policy Data Bank maintained by the Population Division, provide the material needed for preparing biennial monitoring reports on population policies. The Programme of Action suggests a substantial number of research topics in the area of population policies and many of the recommended subjects can be accommodated in the current programme of work.

D. Monitoring, review and appraisal, coordination and dissemination of population information

55. The purpose of this subprogramme is to assess and disseminate information on the world demographic situation; to monitor, biennially, population trends and policies at the national level; and to review and appraise, quinquennially, the level of success in achieving the goals and objectives of the World Population Plan of Action. The Plan of Action indicates that the monitoring shall be a specialized activity of the United Nations and the review and appraisal shall be undertaken by the United Nations system. During the past two decades both activities have been carried out by the Population Division of the Secretariat with the collaboration of all relevant units, bodies and organizations of the United Nations system. After the Mexico City Conference, the Economic and Social Council decided that periodic reports on the monitoring of multilateral population programmes shall be part of the monitoring system; since 1987, UNFPA, on behalf of the Secretary-General, has been responsible for the preparation of those biennial reports of the Secretary-General. In relation to the review and appraisal, the Secretariat has prepared four reports; the fourth of such reports (A/CONF.171/PC/3), which covered the period since the adoption of the Plan of Action in 1974 in Bucharest, served as one of the basic sources of information for the deliberations of the Preparatory Committee and for the Conference as it identified major achievements, deficiencies, lessons to be learned and the emergence of new issues. A discussion on the implications of the Cairo Conference is presented in the last section of that report.

56. This subprogramme also includes two other important elements, namely, the publication and dissemination of the main results of the activities of the

population programme and the coordination of population information activities through the Population Information Network (POPIN). Improved technology, especially during the past few years, has greatly expanded both the nature and the extent of the dissemination of the results of this programme. In addition to the publication of a vast array of studies, reports, bulletins, newsletters and wall charts, population information is increasingly being distributed electronically. An important consequence of these technological improvements has been a dramatic increase in the demand for such information and services.

57. POPIN consists of interrelated networks of population institutions in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean and Northern America; plans are also under way for the creation of such networks in Europe and Western Asia. Consistent with the objectives of the Programme of Action, POPIN aims to increase awareness, knowledge and understanding of population-related issues at all levels of society. In particular, the regional networks affiliated to POPIN are working towards harnessing the tremendous potential of print, audiovisual and electronic media, including databases and networks, to disseminate technical information and to promote and strengthen understanding of the relationships between population, consumption, production and sustainable development. Use of new electronic information technologies is expected to bring about a multifold increase in the availability of population information world wide. In view of the emphasis on population information in the Programme of Action, POPIN will need to strengthen and expand its efforts in the area of information dissemination so as to facilitate equitable access to population information for all audiences and to support the implementation of the Programme of Action.

E. Technical cooperation

58. This subprogramme contemplates the provision of technical assistance in all of the above-mentioned areas. The Conference made reiterated calls for increased technical cooperation and invited the United Nations system to strengthen its programme of work in this area. The Programme of Action not only identifies a large number of areas of assistance but also raises some points which would require further analysis. One of them is the demographic implications of the 20/20 initiative, which will be considered at the World Summit for Social Development; in particular, the relevant question is how and to what extent the restructuring of national budgets would impact on the needs of developing countries for international financial assistance in the field of population and development.

59. In the light of the results of the Cairo Conference and taking into account the modalities recently adopted for the delivery of technical cooperation in the field of population, particularly through the new Technical Support System (TSS) and the strategic planning of country programmes of the Programme Review and Strategic Development country missions of UNFPA, the Population Commission may wish to review the role that the population programme of the United Nations would have in future technical cooperation activities.

F. Closely related work of the Statistical Division

60. The Statistical Division of the Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis is responsible for activities related to four major areas of demographic and social statistics: (a) preparation of methodological studies on the collection, processing, dissemination and utilization of statistics, including population censuses, sample surveys, and civil registration and other administrative recording systems; (b) collection, compilation and dissemination of international statistics; (c) coordination of international statistical programmes; and (d) technical cooperation in statistics. The objectives of the Cairo Conference in monitoring world population trends will be greatly facilitated by these activities by assisting countries in conducting improved population censuses and disseminating timely census results, and by strengthening their vital statistics system through improved civil registration and other administrative recording systems.

61. The Statistical Division is also the technical secretariat of the Statistical Commission. In 1985, the Statistical Commission designated the period 1985-1994 as the 1990 World Population and Housing Census Decade, with a view to promoting the undertaking of national population and housing censuses. At its twenty-eighth session, in 1995, the Commission also may designate the next 10 years as the 2000 World Population and Housing Census Decade. As mentioned above, the work of the two Divisions and the two Commissions has been complementary and mutually supportive.

III. INSTITUTIONAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE CONFERENCE

62. The Conference affirmed that the success in implementing the Programme of Action would depend on the commitment of national Governments, local communities, the non-governmental sector, the international community and all other concerned organizations and individuals. At the national level, the follow-up to the Programme of Action will be the responsibility of national Governments, and the international community should be prompt in providing assistance for its implementation when invited to participate. At the regional and subregional levels, the Programme of Action invites the United Nations regional commissions and other organizations to participate in the follow-up to the Conference by designing appropriate actions on population and development. At the international level, the Conference made a series of specific suggestions, mainly addressed to the United Nations system.

63. The Conference recommendations contained in the section on activities at the international level may have important institutional implications. The Programme of Action requests some specific actions of various intergovernmental bodies and the Secretary-General. The General Assembly, at its forty-ninth session, initiated a careful study of the report of the Cairo Conference and adopted a series of measures to be taken in response to the requests made in the Programme of Action of the Conference. These measures include the following:

(a) The General Assembly should organize a regular review of the implementation of the Programme of Action, which includes the timing, format and organizational aspects of such review (para. 16.21 of the Programme of Action).

In this respect, the General Assembly, in its resolution 49/128 of 19 December 1994, decided that the primary role in the follow-up of the implementation of the Programme of Action would be performed by a three-tiered intergovernmental mechanism composed of the General Assembly, in its policy formulation role, the Economic and Social Council, in its coordinating role and the revitalized Population Commission, in its role of monitoring, reviewing and assessing the implementation of the Programme of Action (resolution 49/128, para. 23). The General Assembly also decided that the revitalized Population Commission shall be renamed the Commission on Population and Development and that it shall meet on an annual basis, beginning in 1996 (resolution 49/128, paras. 24 and 25);

(b) The General Assembly, during its forty-ninth session, and the Economic and Social Council, in 1995, should review the roles, responsibilities, mandates and comparative advantages of the relevant intergovernmental bodies and organs of the United Nations system addressing population and development (para. 16.25 of the Programme of Action). In resolution 49/128, the Council is requested to review, at its substantive session of 1995, the terms of reference, mandate and composition of the Population Commission, with a view to revitalizing it (paras. 26 and 27);

(c) The Economic and Social Council, as part of this review, should consider the roles of UNFPA and the Population Division regarding the follow-up to the Programme of Action (para. 16.26 of the Programme of Action);

(d) The General Assembly, taking into account the results of the above review, should give further consideration to the establishment of a separate Executive Board of UNFPA (para. 16.27 of the Programme of Action). The General Assembly, during its forty-ninth session, decided to request the Economic and Social Council to consider such possibility at its substantive session of 1995 (General Assembly resolution 49/128, para. 28 (a));

(e) The Council should review the reporting system in the area of population and development, taking into account the follow-up to other international conferences, with a view to establishing a more coherent reporting system (para. 16.24 of the Programme of Action and para. 29 of General Assembly resolution 49/128);

(f) The Secretary-General is invited to consult with relevant bodies of the United Nations system and other financial institutions, agencies and organizations on the requirements for international assistance in the field of population and development (para. 16.28 of the Programme of Action and para. 16 of General Assembly resolution 49/128).

64. In order to facilitate the deliberations of the Commission on the follow-up to the Conference, three sections are presented: a brief historical background of the population programme of the United Nations, a short description of the coordination mechanisms in the field of population and, finally, some considerations on the follow-up to the Cairo Conference.

A. Background of the population programme of the United Nations system

65. The United Nations system is involved in a large variety of population activities that cover a wide range of topics such as data collection, research and analysis, training, dissemination of information, technical cooperation and the provision of financial assistance, monitoring and evaluation of projects and programmes, and the substantive servicing of intergovernmental bodies. More than 20 units, bodies and organizations of the system participate in those activities, within the limits of their mandates and expertise, which are carried out in response to specific requests made by intergovernmental bodies, particularly the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the corresponding governing bodies of the regional commissions, programmes and specialized agencies.

66. Since its early days, the United Nations has been actively involved in the field of population. The initial population activities included, basically, research and analysis and, in this area, the programme accomplished pioneering work in the development of methodologies for demographic analysis and, particularly, in creating awareness of the key role that population variables play in social and economic development. The Population Commission was among the first subsidiary bodies established by the Economic and Social Council. Since its early days, the Commission has provided guidance to the United Nations population programme and, although the best known part of the programme has been its quantitative and methodological work, particularly its authoritative estimates and projections and research manuals, significant work has been accomplished in response to the mandate given to it for arranging for studies and advising the Council not only on the size and structure of populations and the changes therein, but also on "the interplay of demographic factors and economic and social factors" as well as on the "policies designed to influence the size and structure of populations and the changes therein". 8/

67. Since the beginning, strong links have been established with other functional commissions, particularly with the Statistical Commission, in the preparation of guidelines for the collection of demographic data. The Population Division of the now Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis has been the technical secretariat of the Commission since its inception. With the creation of the regional commissions, population research and analysis also expanded and incorporated the regional dimension into the work of the United Nations. In the early 1960s, the Council, on the recommendation of the Population Commission, requested the Secretary-General to conduct a population inquiry among Governments to obtain their views on the impact of major population variables in their process of development, whether they had adopted policies aimed at modifying those trends, and to ascertain if they would like to request any assistance from the United Nations in those matters. After discussing the results of the inquiry, the Commission recommended the expansion of the population programme of the United Nations and the inclusion of the delivery of technical assistance as a regular activity; the Council then made suggestions to the General Assembly in this respect and the Assembly adopted a resolution authorizing the United Nations and the specialized agencies to provide such assistance. 9/ Subsequently, in July 1967, the Secretary-General announced in his statement to the Economic and Social Council

the establishment of a special United Nations Trust Fund for Population Activities to supplement resources provided under the regular budget and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in order to allow the United Nations system to broaden its work in the field of population and to expand technical cooperation activities. Initially, the Trust Fund was managed by the United Nations Secretariat, mainly by the Population Division of the then Department of Economic and Social Affairs. In May 1969, as the need for and the resources of the Trust Fund increased, the Secretary-General decided to transfer the responsibility of the Fund from the United Nations proper to UNDP and renamed it the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA). The Population Division remained an analytical office, involved not only in research and analysis, but also in the appraisal of project requests received from UNFPA. In 1977, the technical cooperation activities of the Population Division were incorporated in the then recently created Department of Technical Cooperation for Development and, since early 1992, such functions have been given back to the Population Division. However, the substantive work of technical cooperation activities related to population data collection has always been a part of the functions of the Statistical Division.

68. The terms of reference of the Commission remained the same until 1975 when the Council decided that the Commission should also examine the results of the monitoring of the World Population Plan of Action and contribute to the review and appraisal of the Plan. In 1985, after the Mexico City Conference, the Council decided that the monitoring of multilateral population programmes should be part of the monitoring of population activities and that such reports shall be submitted to the Commission. In 1987, the Council made an in-depth study of the United Nations intergovernmental structure and functions in the economic and social fields. For that exercise, the Chairman of the Population Commission consulted with the members of the Commission and transmitted a summary of their views and proposals to the Chairman of the Special Commission in charge of the review. Among the issues raised was the need to amend the mandate of the Commission to include four specific mandates: (a) coordinating population activities in the United Nations system; (b) providing the Governing Council of UNDP/UNFPA with policy guidance on priority population needs; (c) preparing and organizing the follow-up to international conferences convened under the aegis of the United Nations; and (d) making explicit reference to the monitoring of population assistance programmes as one of its regular activities. The adoption of measures to strengthen the scientific and technical capabilities of the Commission was also stressed. The Special Commission considered those proposals but did not take action on them.

69. The work programme on population of the United Nations is an important component of the programme of international cooperation for development at the United Nations. It is organized along four major functions: (a) substantive servicing of intergovernmental bodies (principally, the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Population Commission); (b) conducting research and analysis and disseminating results; (c) providing technical cooperation; and (d) organizing and coordinating the follow-up to major intergovernmental decisions and gatherings, such as population conferences. At present, the population programme of the medium-term plan refers to the activities of the Population Division of the Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis.

B. Coordination mechanisms

70. Supported by General Assembly resolution 2211 (XXI) of 17 December 1966, the specialized agencies established and/or expanded their population activities in response to the increasing demands from Governments. The need for coordination, harmonization and collaboration among the members of the United Nations family led to the creation of inter-agency mechanisms. In 1968, the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) established a Subcommittee on Population to review the mandates and work programmes of its members and to make arrangements for joint activities; the Subcommittee was abolished in 1977 as a result of the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations Secretariat. Nevertheless, other coordination mechanisms have been enacted for specific purposes. For example, ACC established as far back as 1967 the Inter-agency Meeting on Demographic Projections. This Meeting has proved to be an efficient instrument of inter-agency collaboration; this mechanism was upgraded to subcommittee status by ACC in 1993. In 1970, UNFPA established the Inter-Agency Consultative Committee (IACC) to discuss the Fund's programmes, policies procedures and coordination issues. IACC and the Subcommittee worked closely and ensured a high level of collaboration. IACC continued to meet regularly through 1978 when UNFPA decided to convene new meetings, when needed, on an ad hoc basis. In 1981, the heads of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), UNDP, UNFPA and the World Food Programme (WFP) decided to establish the Joint Consultative Group on Policy (JCGP) for the coordination of child survival, family planning and the needs of vulnerable groups in their programmes of work; other areas of collaboration include women and development, training of personnel, and programme collaboration and coordination in Africa (including the sharing of common premises and services). For the Mexico City and Cairo Population Conferences, ACC decided to establish ad hoc task forces to ensure inter-agency collaboration and coordination.

71. Cooperation, collaboration and harmonization at the inter-agency level is a means to achieve mutual support between analytical and operational activities. The analytical activities of the Secretariat have been recognized internationally for their scientific objectivity, ideological neutrality and comprehensive substantive approach to population and development issues. Such activities are not for the purpose of replicating the work done at universities or research centres (although the results of such activities have been widely used as teaching materials). The analytical part of the programme is aimed at helping in the identification of issues, elucidating the complex nature of issues, facilitating a better understanding of such issues, creating the conditions for building consensus about the proper response to such issues and providing guidance to operational activities. The interrelationship between analytical and operational activities is particularly crucial in the field of population. In spite of the highly sensitive and controversial character of population issues, the United Nations has served as a neutral forum to debate openly such issues and to negotiate common strategies. The successful results of five international conferences on population convened by the United Nations since 1954 attest to the success achieved in linking and focusing on a stronger collaboration between analytical skills and operational activities.

72. The Economic and Social Council coordinates the population activities of the United Nations system and in this function is assisted by the Population

Commission. The Council receives periodic reports in the field of population mainly from the Population Commission and from the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board. In addition to these reports, the regional commissions, other programmes (e.g., UNICEF, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)), the specialized agencies and other functional commissions (e.g., statistics, sustainable development, women and social development) may include in their reports to the Council matters that are related to the field of population and development.

73. The Population Commission, through its follow-up to the recommendations adopted by various United Nations population conferences, is periodically informed about the work done by the various units, bodies and organizations of the United Nations system, including the World Bank, as well as about the activities of relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. Representatives of other functional commissions, as well as of the regional commissions, programmes, specialized agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations participate in various agenda items of the Commission. In this way, the Commission has been able to have a global picture of what is being done by national Governments, the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. This arrangement has facilitated the work of the Economic and Social Council in its function of coordination within the United Nations system.

74. The implementation of the Programme of Action adopted in Cairo calls for ample and sustained inter-agency cooperation and collaboration, where each agency, within the scope of its respective mandate, would fully contribute to the system-wide follow-up to the Conference. Taking into account the need for follow-up activities to draw on the existing capacity within the system, the Executive Director of UNFPA has been requested by the Administrator of UNDP, on behalf of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, to develop a coordinated approach for the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. In this regard, an Inter-Agency Task Force on the Implementation of the Programme of Action has been recently established in order to ensure a system-wide follow-up to the Conference. The Task Force will benefit from the experience and expertise of all relevant system-wide partners, in particular those with field-level operations. The first meeting of this Task Force, which took place on 13 December 1994, was attended by representatives of the Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis and the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the Secretariat, as well as of UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, the International Labour Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Health Organization and the World Bank.

C. Follow-up to the Conference

75. The contents of the Programme of Action go beyond the traditional notion of population. The Programme of Action calls for the participation of all relevant units, bodies and organizations of the system in the follow-up to the Conference. In particular, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social

Council are asked to review the intergovernmental and secretariat arrangements for population activities to ensure proper implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Programme of Action.

76. In undertaking such reviews, it is important that due consideration be given to the relationship between research and policy analysis on the one hand, and operational activities on the other. It is widely recognized that solid and reliable analytical activities should provide sound guidance to operational activities; in turn, the study of the country-level experience and the specific needs for achieving the goals and objectives of operational activities should enrich and help guide the analytical work and facilitate the design of frameworks for improving the efficiency and effectiveness of operational activities. Preserving the independence, ideological neutrality and scientific integrity of analytical activities ensures the credibility required in the field of population and development.

77. Furthermore, the Programme of Action distinguishes follow-up activities to be carried out at different levels: national, subregional, regional and global. It would be appropriate for the Commission to advise the Council on the nature, scope and modalities at each level. Special consideration should be given to the need to reduce the number of reports and simplify them in order to transmit to the Commission only the relevant information needed to monitor the implementation of the Programme of Action.

78. In order to facilitate the review process proposed by the Conference and initiated by the General Assembly and the upcoming deliberations of the Economic and Social Council and its relevant subsidiary bodies, the Secretary-General has identified the following issues for detailed consideration:

(a) In the past, the Population Commission has been the Council's subsidiary body in charge of the follow-up to population conferences. Special consideration should be given to the most suited modalities of operation to respond to the future responsibilities given by the General Assembly to the Commission, in its role of reviewing, monitoring and assessing the implementation of the Programme of Action, as part of the follow-up to the Conference, as well as its future responsibilities in relation to the population programme of the United Nations system. In this respect, the Commission may wish to present to the Economic and Social Council its views on these matters as well as on how to organize its annual meetings;

(b) An integral aspect of the follow-up to the Conference will be the efforts by the international community to maximize the availability of resources and their most effective utilization, as indicated in the Programme of Action. The review of financial needs and resources would be greatly enhanced if it were considered in the context of the substantive deliberations on the follow-up to the Programme of Action;

(c) There is a need to strengthen the synergism that exists between analytical and operational activities in the field of population and development, with due consideration for maintaining the necessary distinct character of analytical and operational activities as mentioned above;

(d) With regard to analytical activities, it is important to stress the considerable benefits of the continued close interactions between the assessment of population trends and the analysis of population policies. In particular, these interactions provide critical knowledge for the effective formulation and implementation of activities related to the recommendations of the Programme of Action;

(e) Simpler and more effective reporting mechanisms are needed for the collection and compilation of: (i) socio-economic and demographic indicators; (ii) information on the adoption and implementation of strategies and policies; and (iii) data on programme performance;

(f) If information on the implementation of recommendations pertaining to certain conferences (e.g., UNCED, Women, Social Summit, Habitat II) will be collected at the country level and then consolidated and analysed, at both the regional and international levels, precise guidelines and procedures need to be established for such consolidation;

(g) At the intergovernmental level, continued close cooperation is needed among the revitalized Population Commission, the Commission on Sustainable Development and the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board to ensure effective coordination, harmonization and collaboration in the field of population and development;

(h) The population dimension should be fully integrated into the major areas of work of the United Nations system and appropriate interdepartmental and inter-agency mechanisms should be arranged. Particular attention should be given to integrating population throughout the activities of the United Nations system, including, inter alia, peace-building operations and humanitarian and relief activities;

(i) An integrated approach, providing system-wide coordination and guidance in the monitoring of the implementation of the Programme of Action, is required; in addition, this monitoring should be properly coordinated with the reporting activities undertaken within the United Nations system as follow-up to other United Nations conferences;

(j) A more coherent United Nations reporting system may be facilitated by improved collaboration among the various functional commissions reporting to the Economic and Social Council; means to improve the level of interaction and cross-fertilization among the commissions need to be explored;

(k) Adequate procedures should be adopted to ensure more active participation of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in follow-up activities to the Conference at the international level.

79. As requested by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, the views of the Population Commission on the implications of the recommendations of the Conference are to be transmitted to the Council in 1995. The Secretary-General, in preparing his report on the work of the Organization, to be submitted to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session, will take into account, inter alia, the views expressed by the Commission and the deliberations of the Council.

Notes

1/ Report of the United Nations World Population Conference, Bucharest, 19-30 August 1974 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.XIII.3) and Report of the International Conference on Population, Mexico City, 6-14 August 1984 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.84.XIII.8 and corrigenda).

2/ In 1993, the General Assembly, in its resolution 48/186, para. 3, decided that the Preparatory Committee for the Conference shall be one of its subsidiary bodies.

3/ See Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on the status of preparatory activities for the International Conference on Population and Development (E/1992/60), paras. 1 and 2.

4/ Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994 (A/CONF.171/13 and Add.1), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

5/ See Council resolution 1991/93 of 26 July 1991, para. 4.

6/ See Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda).

7/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1989, Supplement No. 6 (E/1989/24).

8/ See Economic and Social Council resolution 150 (VII) of 10 August 1948.

9/ See General Assembly resolution 2211 (XXI) of 17 December 1966.